(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when these are proposed to be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise. However, track renewal is a regular process and track is renewed as and when it becomes due for renewal subject to availability of funds.

Proposal for setting up IVRS in Andhra Pradesh

2940. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to set up an Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for passenger information at various places in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether such a system is operating anywhere in India;

(c) what advantage would be gained by passengers due to IVRS;

(d) whether any schedule has been worked out for such a system in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 44 stations of Indian Railways have been provided with the facility of Interactive Voice Response System in the Country.

(c) Through Interactive Voice Response System Passengers can get current reservation status and information about arrival and departure of the trains, directly by telephone without human interference.

(d) and (e) At present Secunderabad and Vijayawada Railway stations have been provided with Interactive Voice Response System and four more stations in Andhra Pradesh have been identified for providing this facility.

MOU between C.S.I.R. and I.D.R.C Canada

2941. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1544 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th December, 1998 and state:

(a) the full text of the memorandum of grant conditions signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, for the project entitled "CD Rom of Asian information on Health Environment"; and

(b) whether a society called Asian Health Environment and Allied Database (AHEAD), registered with Registrar of Societies, Delhi, is associated with the project?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The full text of the memorandum of grant conditions signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and International Development Research Centre, Canada is placed at Annexure. [*See* appendix 186, annexure no. 54]

(b) Yes Sir.

मध्य प्रदेश में एक 'बायोटेक्नोलोजीकल पार्क' की स्थापना

2942. श्री राघव जी: क्या विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि ग्रामीण प्रौद्योगिकी को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए मध्य प्रदेश में एक "बायोटेक्नोलॉजिकल पार्क" की स्थापना संबंधी कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है तथा इसे कब तक स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी जायेगी?

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी): (क) और (ख) वर्तमान में बायोटेक्नोलॉजी विभाग को मध्य प्रदेश में बायोटेक्नोलॉजी पार्क की स्थापना करने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

S&T Projects for Gujarat

2943. SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the science and technology projects announced by the then Minister of Science and Technology at the convocation addresses at Sardar Patel University at Vallabh Vidyanagar and Gujarat University, Ahmedabad in 1997 for Gujarat;

(b) the current status of these projects and any new projects announced with their status; and

(c) the approach to science and technology plan for Gujarat stated in these convocation addresses and any new approaches Government may have developed?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURALI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Some of the important science & technology projects mentioned in the convocation addresses at Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar and Gujarat University, Ahmedabad are:

(i) Technology Development Project for manufacturing Undecenoic Acid and its derivatives based on technology developed by IICT, Hyderabad.

(ii) Technology Development Project for manufacturing Vaccine at Cadila.

(iii) Programme for strengthening Food Biotechnology Programme at SP University.

(iv) MSc (Biotechnology) Programme at Gujarat University.

(v) Bio-technology Village near Porbander

(vi) Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre for Applied Research and testing at Vallabh Vidyanagar.

(vii) Establishment of Ocean Science & Technology Cell at Bhavnagar University.

(viii) Project on Inte-grated Coastal and Marine Area Management.

(ix) Software Technology Park at Gandhinagar.

(x) Networking of Agricultural University Centre for access to new information and technology.

(xi) ICAR All India Coordinated Research Project on horticultural crops.

(b) The current status of these projects are:

(i) The Technology Development Board has provided a loan to M/S Gujarat Oleo Chem Limited for putting up a manufacturing plan, for Undecenoic acid and Heptaldehyde from castor oil, at GIDC Panoli, Ankleshwar at a total cost of Rs 2367 lakhs with TDB's loan amounting to Rs 333 lakhs.

(ii) M/s Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited, Ahmedabad has been provided a loan of Rs. 450 lakhs out of a total cost of Rs. 900 lakhs for manufacture and commercial marketing of Recombinant Heptatitis-B vaccine.

(iii) Project at SP University sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 35 lakhs for Strengthening of food biotechnology and training programme.

(iv) Rs. 70 lakhs provided for Post Graduate Programme in Biotechnology at Gujarat University, Ahmedabad.